

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On pages 2-3, please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

51 [0009] The device or curved dilator 100 creates and a step or gradually dilates an opening in body tissue. In the preferred embodiment, the device 100 creates and step dilates an opening in the interspinous ligament. Referring to Figure 1, the device 100 has an elongated body 102, a handle 104 and a tapered curved tip 106. The elongated body 102, including the tapered curved tip 106, is manufactured out of material such as, but not limited to, titanium-6Al-4V ELI alloy which conforms to ASTM Standard F136-96; Standard Specification Wrought Titanium 6 Aluminum 4 Vanadium ELI (Extra Low Interstitial) Alloy (R56401) for surgical implant applications.